

REMARKS:

Claims 1-3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fenick ('660). Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cascione et al. ('168). Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fenick. Lastly, claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cascione et al. Claim 4 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the claims from which it depends.

Each of the independent claims have been rewritten to recite subject matter that is not disclosed by the prior art of record, so the rejections referenced above are now moot. With the present invention, it is possible for a user to drill a hole for a single tooth position in the mouth at any of a variety of angles without having to recast the drilling guide to change angles by repositioning the drill in any of a variety of guide holes located in the guide block, with the distal end of each of the guide holes exiting the guide block at the same position. This feature is not disclosed or made obvious by either Fenick or Cascione et al.

It is noted that stent stop, as claimed in claim 5, and the guide holes being overlapping, as claimed in claim 6, were not disclosed in the the Fenick reference, over which these claims were rejected as unpatentable. While the Examiner asserted that the formation of the stops of claim 5 would have been obvious, there does not appear to be an evidence to support such an assertion. The rejection remains silent as to the feature of claim 6, so it is not clear to Applicant what the Examiner's thinking was on this point. For these reasons, the prior rejection of claims 5 and 6 is objected to.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Shay", written in a cursive style.

Randy Shay
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 44,055
Siemens Patent Services, L.C.
P.O. Box 2607
Fairfax, VA 22031
(540) 548-4404